

**Conservation Activity Evaluation Tool** 

#### CSP-2017-1\_ND - NIPF\_Forest

# **Soil Erosion**

#### **Sheet and Rill Erosion**

P	Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met		
	Screening level: Soil surface organic residue cover > 80%. Assessment evel: Site is stable and without visible signs of erosion.	Yes	No	
F	Evaluation Tests	<b>Evaluation Te</b>	st Met	
la	Drainage and erosion control measures are implemented on trails and andings to minimize detrimental effects of concentrated flow, erosion and sedimentation. Stream crossings are restored and stabilized.	Yes	No	
r	The forest floor is covered with leaves, needles, fine woody debris, ocks, and/or herbaceous vegetation that protects the soil on more than 30 percent of the area.	Yes	No	
Clas	ssic Gully Erosion			
F	Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met		
c	Screening level: Classic gullies are not present. Assessment level: Classic gully management is adequate to stop the progression of head cutting and widening and are offsite impacts are minimized by regetation and/or structures.	Yes	No	
F	Evaluation Tests	<b>Evaluation Test Met</b>		
	Soil erosion is controlled. There are no impacts on sensitive regetation. There are no occurrences or enlargement of gullies.	Yes	No 🗌	
la	Drainage and erosion control measures are implemented on trails and andings to minimize detrimental effects of concentrated flow, erosion and sedimentation. Stream crossings are restored and stabilized.	Yes	No	



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#### Streambank, Shoreline, Water Conveyance Channels

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: Streams, shoreline or channels are not adjacent to site. Assessment level: For shorelines and water conveyance channels; banks are stable or commensurate with normal geomorphological processes, AND if bank erosion is present, it is beyond the client's control or commensurate with normal geomorphological processes, AND for streambanks, SVAP2 bank condition element score > 5.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Test Met</b>	
Excluding all fundamentally unstable, natural geomorphic streambanks/shorelines, all streambanks/shorelines on the operation show few signs of erosion or bank failure. Each is stable and protected with natural materials.	Yes	No



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# **Soil Quality Degradation**

# **Organic Matter Depletion**

Planning Criteria	<b>Planning Criteria Met</b>	
Screening level: Soil organic matter depletion is not a problem AND activities do not cause soil organic matter depletion. Assessment level: Ground cover meets state criteria specific to ecological site.	Yes	No 🗌
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Test Met</b>	
The forest floor is covered with leaves, needles, fine woody debris,	Yes 🗌	No 🗌



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# **Excess Water**

# **Runoff and Flooding and Ponding**

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: Ponding or flooding not a problem AND activities do not cause ponding/flooding problems. Assessment level: Excess water is managed to meet client's objectives.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Test Met</b>	
Drainage and erosion control measures are implemented on trails and landings to minimize detrimental effects of concentrated flow, erosion and sedimentation. Stream crossings are restored and stabilized.	Yes	No



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# **Insufficient Water**

#### **Inefficient Moisture Management**

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: Moisture management is not a problem AND activities do not cause inefficient moisture management problems. Assessment level: Runoff and evapotranspiration levels are minimized to meet client's management objectives.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Test Met</b>	
Management choices include actions to limit moisture loss. For example, maintaining shade, retaining the forest litter layer, and maintaining correct stocking levels.	Yes	No 🗌



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# **Water Quality Degradation**

#### **Pesticides in Surface Water**

	Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
	Screening level: Pest control chemicals are not applied. Assessment level: Pesticides are stored, handled, disposed and managed to prevent runoff, spills, leaks and leaching AND conservation practices and managements are in place to minimize surface water impacts.	Yes	No
	<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Te</b>	st Met
	A site-specific mixture of prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression (PAMS) strategies are applied. If pesticide aplication is required, an environmental risk screening tool is used (such as WIN-PST or similar LGU approval tool) and application rates and timing are compliant with the label and the conservation plan.	Yes	No
<u>Pe</u>	sticides in Ground Water		
	Planning Criteria	Planning Crite	eria Met
	Screening level: Pest control chemicals are not applied. Assessment level: Pesticides are stored, handled, disposed and managed to prevent runoff, spills, leaks and leaching AND conservation practices and managements are in place to minimize ground water impacts.	Yes	No
	<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Te</b>	st Met
	Pesticides are applied using a site-specific mixture of prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression (PAMS) strategies. Environmental risk screening tool are used (such as WIN-PST or similar LGU approval tool). Application rates and timing are compliant with the label and the conservation plan.	Yes	No 🗌



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# **Nutrients in Surface Water**

	Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
	Screening level: Organic or inorganic nutrients are not applied AND the PLU is not grazed AND there are no confined livestock areas. Assessment level: Nutrients if applied, are based on a soil test, tissue tests or nutrient budget AND conservation practices and managements are in place to minimize surface water impacts.	Yes	No
	<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Te</b>	st Met
	The land adjacent to a stream, river, or other waterbody on the side or sides you control does: - have diverse, natural plant cover typical to that along streams in your area, - extend from the stream bank/shoreline for a distance of 35 feet or (if applicable) the minimum State buffer-width requirement, whichever is greater, AND - have few places where concentrated runoff flows through.	Yes	No
	Livestock access to stream is controlled OR limited to small watering or crossing areas	Yes	No
	Drainage and erosion control measures are implemented on trails and landings to minimize detrimental effects of concentrated flow, erosion and sedimentation. Stream crossings are restored and stabilized.	Yes	No
Nu	trients in Ground Water		
	Planning Criteria	Planning Crite	eria Met
	Screening level: Organic or inorganic nutrients are not applied AND the PLU is not grazed AND there are no confined livestock areas. Assessment level: Nutrients if applied, are based on a soil test, tissue tests or nutrient budget AND conservation practices and managements are in place to minimize ground water impacts.	Yes	No
	<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Test Met</b>	
	The forest or woodlot is fully stocked with tree species adapted to the site, has spacing for good tree growth and air flow between and beneath, does not have excessive tree mortality, has an understory made up of desirable species and is not inhibited by brush or other undesirable vegetation.	Yes	No



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# Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids or Compost Applications in Surface Water

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: Potential sources of pathogens or pharmaceuticals are not applied on the land. Assessment level: Organic materials are applied, stored, and/or handled to mitigate negative impacts to surface water sources.	Yes	No 🗌
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation</b> T	Test Met
Livestock access to stream is controlled OR limited to small watering or crossing areas	Yes	No 🗌
Petroleum, Heavy Metal and Other Pollutants Transported	to Surface V	<u>Vater</u>
Planning Criteria	Planning Cr	iteria Met
Screening level: Activities do not present the potential for contamination by petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants. Assessment level: Petroleum, heavy metals or other potential pollutants are stored and handled to avoid runoff to surface water.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation</b> T	Test Met



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# **Excessive Sediment in Surface Water**

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: There are no untreated sources of erosion AND streams or shoreline are not on or adjacent to site. Assessment level: Upslope treatment and buffer practices address concentrated flows to water bodies AND heavy use areas are stable AND the SVAP2 - bank condition is >= 5.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation T</b>	est Met
The land adjacent to a stream, river, or other waterbody on the side or sides you control does: - have diverse, natural plant cover typical to that along streams in your area, - extend from the stream bank/shoreline for a distance of 35 feet or (if applicable) the minimum State buffer-width requirement, whichever is greater, AND - have few places where concentrated runoff flows through.	Yes	No
Drainage and erosion control measures are implemented on trails and landings to minimize detrimental effects of concentrated flow, erosion and sedimentation. Stream crossings are restored and stabilized.	Yes	No
<b>Elevated Water Temperature</b>		
Planning Criteria	Planning Cri	teria Met
Screening level: Water courses on or adjacent to the site are not designated by a State Agency as a temperature impairment OR water course temperature is not a client concern. Assessment level: The SVAP2 - riparian area quality element score is >= 5 AND the SVAP2 - riparian area quantity quality element score is >= 5 AND the SVAP2 - canopy cover element score is >= 6, OR existing conservation practices are in place to address water temperature.	Yes	No
Evaluation Tests	<b>Evaluation Test Met</b>	
More than 50 percent of the water surface is shaded on the length of the stream/river you control.	Yes	No 🗌



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# **Air Quality Impacts**

#### **Emission of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)**

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: Activities are not present that produce GHGs emissions. GHG producing activities are: Fertilization(manure/commercial), CAFO/manure management, Engines (combustion source), Tillage, AND GHGs are not regulated in this planning area. Assessment level: Greenhouse gas emmissions are managed to meet client objectives.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Test Met</b>	
The forest or woodlot is fully stocked with tree species adapted to the site. Species have high-growth rates or long life span with the ability to reach a large size.	Yes	No



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# **Degraded Plant Condition**

# **Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health**

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: Plant production and health is not a client concern. Assessment level: Forest species are adapted to site AND composition and stand density meets the client's objectives and production goals.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation</b> To	est Met
The forest or woodlot is fully stocked with tree species adapted to the site, has spacing for good tree growth and air flow between and beneath, does not have excessive tree mortality, has an understory made up of desirable species and is not inhibited by brush or other undesirable vegetation. Monitoring for Insects and disease is completed to prevent outbreaks that would be detrimental to forest health.	Yes	No
Trees/shrubs are pruned to improve plant productivity, health, and vigor.	Yes	No
Inadequate Structure and Composition		
Planning Criteria	Planning Crit	teria Met
Screening level: Plant communities support the intended land use and desired ecological functions. Assessment level: Plant communities contain adequate diversity, composition and structure to support desired ecological functions.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation To</b>	est Met
Trees/shrubs are pruned to improve plant structure and composition.	Yes	No
The forest or woodlot is fully stocked with tree species adapted to the site, has spacing for good tree growth and air flow between and beneath, does not have excessive tree mortality, has an understory made up of desirable species and is not inhibited by brush or other undesirable vegetation	Yes	No



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#### **Excessive Plant Pest Pressure**

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met		
Screening level: Plant productivity is not limited from pest pressure. Assessment level: Pest damage to plants are below economic or environmental thresholds or client-identified criteria AND plant pests, including noxious and invasive species are managed to meet client objectives.	Yes	No	
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Test Met</b>		
Invasive and noxious weeds are controlled or not present.	Yes	No 🗌	
Trees are selected or planted that are tolerant of known damaging pests.	Yes	No 🗌	
The current plant composition prevents outbreak of non-desirable species.	Yes	No	



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#### Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: Wildfire hazards is not a concern. Assessment level: Fuel loads and fuel ladders are managed to provide defensible space and meet client objectives.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Test Met</b>	
Sites needing wildfire protection or using prescribed burning have a permanent or temporary strip of bare or vegetated land that retards fire.	Yes	No
Trees/shrubs are pruned to reduce wildfire hazard and/or excessive biomass accumulation.	Yes	No 🗌
The forest or woodlot is fully stocked with tree species adapted to the site, has spacing for good tree growth and air flow between and beneath, does not have excessive tree mortality, has an understory made up of desirable species and is not inhibited by brush or other undesirable vegetation. Monitoring for Insects and disease is completed to prevent outbreaks that would be detrimental to forest health. Woody debris on the forest floor supports wildlife but does not present an elevated fire risk.	Yes	No
Fire risk to sensitive sites are controlled by treatment, removal or modification of vegetation, debris and detritus in a strip or area.	Yes	No 🗌
On sites needing wildfire protection, a hazardous fuel reduction treatment has occurred or will occur.	Yes	No 🗌



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# Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat

# **Inadequate Habitat - Food**

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Assessment level: The WHSI rating is >= 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - fish habitat complexity element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is >= 7, OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR food is available in quality and extent to support habitat requirements for the species of interest.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Test Met</b>	
The land adjacent to a stream, river, or other waterbody on the side or sides you control does: - have diverse, natural plant cover typical to that along streams in your area, AND - extend from the stream bank/shoreline for a distance of 35 feet or (if applicable) the minimum State buffer-width requirement, whichever is greater.	Yes	No
Designated areas are planted as food and habitat for pollinators/beneficial insects. For example, planted to nectar and pollen producing plants and protected from disruptionchemical, biological, or mechanical.	Yes	No
Plant growth and cover is managed to develop and maintain habitat to	Yes 🗍	No 🗌

### **Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter**



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Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Assessment level: The WHSI rating is >= 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - barriers to movement element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - fish habitat complexity element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is >= 7, OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR cover is of available quality and extent to support habitat requirements for the species of interest.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	Evaluation Te	est Met
Designated areas are planted as food and habitat for pollinators/beneficial insects. For example, planted to nectar and pollen producing plants and protected from disruptionchemical, biological, or mechanical.	Yes	No
The forest or woodlot is fully stocked with tree species adapted to the site, has spacing for good tree growth and air flow between and beneath, does not have excessive tree mortality, has an understory made up of desirable species and is not inhibited by brush or other undesirable vegetation. Monitoring for Insects and disease is completed to prevent outbreaks that would be detrimental to forest health. Woody debris on the forest floor supports wildlife but does not present an elevated fire risk.	Yes	No
Plant growth and cover is managed to develop and maintain habitat to help threatened, endagered, or declining wildlife species.	Yes	No
The stream(s) have: - a natural, unaltered configuration, with minimal channel straightening, dredging, or bank alteration by armoring with rip-rap or other non-natural materials, - stable banks with limited erosion or bank failure, and - human uses and/or grazing levels that do not negatively impact bank condition.	Yes	No
The plant cover provides cover and shelter for the chosen wildlife species.	Yes	No
The operation has areas suited for additional tree planting to benefit wildlife, either within existing plantings or areas not fully utilized.	Yes	No
Livestock access to stream is controlled OR limited to small watering or crossing areas	Yes	No



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# **Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)**

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Assessment level: The WHSI rating is >= 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - barriers to movement element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is >= 7, OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR The connectivity of habitat components are adequate to support stable populations of targeted species.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Te</b>	st Met
The forest or woodlot is fully stocked with tree species adapted to the site, has spacing for good tree growth and air flow between and beneath, does not have excessive tree mortality, has an understory made up of desirable species and is not inhibited by brush or other undesirable vegetation. Monitoring for Insects and disease is completed to prevent outbreaks that would be detrimental to forest health. Woody debris on the forest floor supports wildlife but does not present an elevated fire risk.	Yes	No
There are documented occurrences of sensitive native plant communities within the forest. A conservation plan identifies goals for the plant community. Invasive plant monitoring has occurred, and control treatments have been implemented when necessary.	Yes	No
Connectivity between food resources and cover and shelter is provided for the chosen wildlife species. <see action="" plan="" state="" wildlife=""></see>	Yes	No
Plant growth is managed to develop and maintain early successional habitat to help chosen wildlife species. <see action="" plan="" state="" wildlife=""></see>	Yes	No
Designated areas are planted as habitat for pollinators/beneficial insects. Non-cropped area protected from disruption during nesting and foraging periodschemical, biological, or mechanical.	Yes	No
The land adjacent to a stream, river, or other waterbody on the side or sides you control does: - have diverse, natural plant cover typical to that along streams in your area, - extend from the stream bank/shoreline for a distance of 35 feet or (if applicable) the minimum State buffer-width requirement, whichever is greater, AND - have few places where concentrated runoff flows through.	Yes	No



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# **Livestock Production Limitation**

# **Inadequate Feed and Forage**

	Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
	Assessment level: When the land use has a "grazed" modifier, livestock forage, roughage and supplemental nutritional requirements addressed.	Yes	No 🗌
	<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Te</b>	st Met
	An existing prescribed grazing plan is on schedule. Animal stocking levels and rotation periods are designed to avoid harm to sensitive plants.	Yes	No
<u>In</u>	adequate Shelter		
	Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
	Assessment level: When the land use has a "grazed" modifier, artificial or natural shelters meet animal health needs and client objectives.	Yes	No
	<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Test Met</b>	
	An existing prescribed grazing plan is on schedule. Animal stocking levels and rotation periods are designed to lessen exposure to inclement weather or other site specific concerns.	Yes	No



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# **Inadequate Water**

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Assessment level: When the land use has a "grazed" modifier, water of acceptable quality and quantity adequately distributed to meet animal needs.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Test Met</b>	
An existing prescribed grazing plan is on schedule. Animal stocking levels and rotation periods are designed to utilize available water sources without damaging them.	Yes	No 🗌



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# <u>Inefficient Energy Use</u>

# **Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations**

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: Client is not interested in improving equipment and facilities energy efficiency. Assessment level: A USDA approved energy audit has been implemented that address equipment and facilities to meet client objectives OR On-farm renewable energy and/or energy conserving practices have been implemented to meet client objectives.	Yes	No
<b>Evaluation Tests</b>	<b>Evaluation Test Met</b>	
Energy-efficient actions are used in forest management activities. For example, limiting the number of trips into the forest, or leaving woody residue in place if it is not a fire or pest hazard.	Yes	No 🗌